

Custom Forage Harvesting Conference Set For Central Susquehanna Area

WATSON TOWN (Northumberland Co.) — An educational program for dairy producers, custom forage harvesters, and

dairy industry representatives is scheduled to take place at the Watson Inn, Watsonstown on March 20.

“Aligning dairy producer and custom harvester perspectives” is the purpose of the workshop.

Presenters for the day

include Sandy Costello, dairy agent; Greg Roth, Penn State; John Becker, Penn State; Karl Nestor, dairy technical specialist; and Sarah Roth, Penn State Dairy Alliance.

The program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost

for the day is \$10, including lunch, registration, and program materials. Registration deadline is March 14.

For more information, call Sandy Costello at (888) 922-5420.

Call toll-free 1-800-FED-INFO to find out about government programs, benefits, and services.



FORAGE VARIETY TRIALS REPORT AVAILABLE

The 2002 Penn State “Forage Variety Trials Report” is now available, for free, at your county extension office. It can also be downloaded from the web at www.forages.psu.edu.

This year’s report contains variety performance information on alfalfa, red clover, and many cool-season grass species under hay and grazing management. If you will be seeding forages during the next year, this report will be a valuable asset in your species/variety selection process.

2003 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Through your continued membership, the PFGC is able to accomplish much toward a better forage industry, environment, and community. With continued support from supporting organizations and individual members, the PFGC can secure additional funds to provide a great return on your membership investment!

Encourage neighbors and friends that are not PFGC members to join and enjoy the benefits of membership. Why not give a PFGC membership to a friend or valued customer? It doesn’t matter how you become a member, just get it done and get involved!

SATELLITES SHOW WHERE COWS MOVE

David Elstein,
USDA-ARS,
Information Staff

Scientists are using Global Positioning System (GPS), satellites to help record where cattle roam. The GPS units can also tell if a cow is eating or sleeping. The GPS technology is the first device to record the movement of cattle without having humans watching and writing down the results. The GPS is more accurate and less expensive than human watchers.

Information about the cattle movements is recorded in special GPS collars worn by the cows. Between 24 and 30 satellites communicate with the collars to figure out exactly where the cattle are. Then, USDA-ARS scientists transfer the information stored in the collars to a computer map that shows exactly where the animals have gone and when. This work is being done in eastern Oregon, where there is a lot of room for cattle to move around in freely. Cows look for areas that are near water and contain a lot of fresh grass to eat. They avoid areas with a lot of rocks.

Scientists hope to be able to eventually predict where the cattle will graze. That information would let farmers better manage their cattle by preventing them from eating plants in one area more often than another. Simultaneous tests are being conducted to see how cows respond to the addition of fences, water, and trails.



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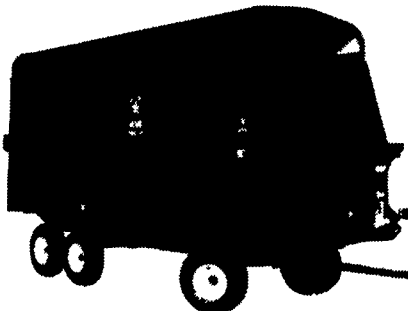


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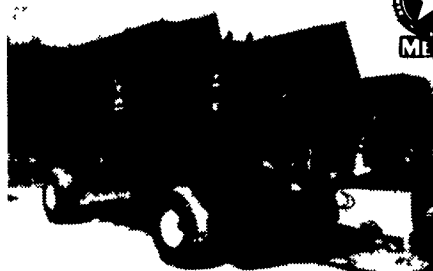


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